

Amendments to the Claims:

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (new): A clustering system comprising:

a first cluster including a first host device and a first storage device coupled to the first host device;

a second cluster including a second host device and a second storage device coupled to the second host device;

a heartbeat network coupled to each of the first and second host devices;

a remote copy interface coupling the first and second storage devices;

clustering software to control fail over between the first and second host devices is configured in each of the first and second host devices;

paired volume control software to issue a pair control command configured in the first and second host devices; and

a determining volume is provided in each of the first and second storage devices;

wherein the clustering software, when it detects a failure by monitoring the heartbeat, issues a selected command to the paired volume control software requiring an exclusive process between paired volumes;

wherein the paired volume control software issues the pair control command to the determining volume when receiving the selected command from the clustering software;

wherein the paired volume control software receiving a normal end status returns normal end status to the clustering software; and

wherein the clustering software receiving the normal end status from the pair volume control software starts a fail over process.

Claim 5 (new): A clustering system as in claim 4 wherein the heartbeat network allows each of the first and second hosts to monitor an operating condition of the other of the first and second hosts.

Claim 6 (new): A clustering system as in claim 4 wherein the remote copy interface allows write operation to the first storage device to be mirrored to the second storage device.

Claim 7 (new): A clustering system as in claim 4 wherein the selected command comprises a SCSI reserve command.

Claim 8 (new): A clustering system as in claim 7 wherein the clustering software which failed to reserve the determining volume releases its resources and halts running application programs.

Claim 9 (new): A clustering system as in claim 7 wherein if the SCSI reserve command is properly executed, and if the determining volume is a primary volume, a pair resynchronization command is issued.

Claim 10 (new): A clustering system as in claim 9 wherein if the SCSI reserve command is properly executed, and if the determining volume is a secondary volume, a pair swap resynchronization command is issued.